

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IGA-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-04

DRC-01 /072 W

----- 122982

R 150700Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8957

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

DEPT OF TREASURY

DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6003

TREASURY FOR PARSKY

DEFENSE FOR NOYES

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EA, SA, US

SUBJ: ROLE OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS: US-SAUDI JOINT  
COMMISSION

SUMMARY: INTEREST OF SAUDI CIVILIAN MINISTRIES IN  
UTILIZING SERVICES OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS REMAINS HIGH.  
EMBASSY BELIEVES TIME HAS COME TO CONSIDER THIS ROLE AS  
A KEY PART OF THE FUTURE EXPANDED JOINT COMMISSION EFFORT  
IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE KINGDOM. THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE  
THE DECISION TO PERMIT THE CORPS TO EXPLORE WHERE ITS  
SERVICES ARE MOST NEEDED AND WOULD BE MOST WELCOMED.  
END SUMMARY.

1. SAUDI COORDINATOR OF THE JOINT COMMISSION DR. SULAIMAN  
SULAIM INFORMED AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 13 THAT THERE WAS CON-  
TINUING STRONG INTEREST IN THE USE OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
IN CIVILIAN DEVELOPMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA. HE NOTED THAT  
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DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF

MUNICIPALITIES INDICATED THAT THIS MAY BE THE AREA IN WHICH THE CORPS HAS THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY. MINISTER OF STATE ABA AL KHAIL WISHES THE CORPS TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT A DECISION ON INVOLVEMENT OF THE CORPS IN A BROADER DEVELOPMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT SUCH A DECISION WOULD BE POSITIVE, BUT MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF THE ROLE OF THE CORPS WOULD BE NECESSARY. AS THE ARM OF AN ACTION AGENCY OF THE JOINT COMMISSION, THE CORPS COULD BE ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE NEW DEVELOPMENTAL TOOLS FOR THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT.

3. IT SEEMS APPARENT THAT A CONSENSUS IS BEING GENERATED WITHIN THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT FOR UTILIZATION OF THE CORPS IN VARIOUS CIVILIAN AREAS. IT MAY BE TIME TO GENERATE A MORE FORMAL SURVEY BY THE CORPS, AT THE INVITATION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION, ON EXACTLY WHAT THE CORPS CAN DO AND WHAT IT SHOULD LEAVE TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND DIRECT CONTRACTS BY THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT.

AKINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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